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# Frequently Asked Questions

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## About the Forest Stewardship Program...

**Question:** Does a landowner who participates in the program have to manage for all targeted resources (timber, wildlife, recreation, soil & water, and grazing) on each acre of land?

**Answer:** No, the landowner does not need to manage for each resource on every acre. However, the landowner's Forest Stewardship Plan should address each of these resources on at least some portion of the property, according to his/her objectives and the program standards. (Of course, grazing is optional.) The goal is to protect and sustain all the major resources on the land.

**Question:** How does a landowner receive the "Stewardship Forest" sign?

**Answer:** Once the landowner has implemented the practices contained in the plan to the point where they meet the Stewardship Forest Certification standards, the County Forester will request a visit from the certification inspection team. The team will inspect the property, and submit a request for concurrence from the Stewardship Committee. Once approved, the landowner is presented with a sign, certificate, and as much publicity as they care to receive.

## About the Management Plan...

**Question:** If a landowner's property is managed by a consulting forester, can the consultant write the Forest Stewardship Plan?

**Answer:** Absolutely! Landowners who have between 25 and 1,000 acres of forest land and do not have a recent plan covering the property can receive SIP cost shares to help pay

a forestry or wildlife consultant to develop their plan. If the consultant has recently prepared a plan, the interagency team can develop a "Stewardship Supplement" to address all necessary resources.

**Question:** As concerns about wetland conservation and threatened/endangered species increase, landowners are becoming more concerned about their property rights. Is a landowner's Forest Stewardship Plan subject to review by regulatory agencies and environmental groups?

**Answer:** No. Although the Stewardship Plan is prepared using public funds, it becomes the property of the landowner once completed. Regulatory agencies and groups do not have the right to categorically inspect stewardship plans or properties without submitting a formal request under the state's Freedom of Information Act. If landowners are participating in the program, they will tend to be perceived as satisfying environmental concerns.

## About SIP...

**Question:** Are there limitations on how a landowner uses an area during the maintenance period after receiving SIP cost shares?

**Answer:** No, providing the landowner does not destroy any part of the practice or sell the land. If the land is sold, the new owner can maintain the practice for the remainder of the 10 years.

**Question:** What happens if a landowner can not complete an approved SIP practice because of wet weather, unforeseen financial obligations, etc.?